



Weekly Information & Communication



September 21, 2015

New M-SPIRIT Release

An M-Spirit upgrade is scheduled for release to the WIC clinics on Oct 1. The release will contain the following correction:

SPIRIT allowed the issuance of a one-year old package (whole or 2% milk) to a two-year old who should've been receiving 1% or skim milk. SPIRIT did not require a food prescription dated for the second birthday. SPIRIT should have required a food prescription dated for the second birthday, and should have displayed an appropriate warning/error message when issuing benefits for the participant.

Please remember.

1. If your clinic is known to have bandwidth problems, please remember to arrive early to start the upgrade. Bandwidth issues will cause the upgrade to take up to half an hour, sometimes longer. Initiating the upgrade early will help avoid delayed appointments.
2. For all M-Spirit users—reset local reference data when your computer is done upgrading. This will ensure that you receive all food item changes and help you avoid Food Prescription and Issuance errors.

End of Federal Fiscal Year

Just a reminder, all of the following should be completed for end of Federal Fiscal Year:

- Continuing Education Requirements
- Outreach, Breastfeeding, and Nutrition Education Plans submitted
- Retail Store Monitoring

Please submit all required documentation to the State Office. Thanks for another great year!

Updated Self-Chart Review News

For agencies doing self-chart reviews, Mike Fields updated SPIRIT utilities with a new administrative monitoring function. Instead of just the Monitoring I and Monitoring II functions, the administrative monitoring function only contains charts in current certification. If an agency is required to do a self-chart review, they will now need to review 5 charts from Monitoring II for the nutrition review, and 5 charts from Admin, for the administrative review. By using currently certified charts for administration, the agency will be able to show any corrective actions they've made. We appreciate everyone's hard work on this, and hope this improves the monitoring process. Thank you for all the work you do. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Kelly at 444-0909, or email her at KAughney@mt.gov.

New Education Tool

There is a new education tool called *Visual Tips for Portion Sizes*. It is located on the Montana WIC website under Local Agency Staff, then Nutrition and Breastfeeding Resources. This tool is a good way to explain portions to participants by relating portion sizes to everyday objects (i.e. hands, fingers, light bulb etc.).

Loving Support Award of Excellence Application

USDA expects to open the Loving Support Award of Excellence application period on October 1, 2015. The application period will be open for approximately 60 days

The Loving Support Award of Excellence has three levels, Gold, Gold Premiere and Gold Elite. Applicants must be lead local agencies who have operated a breastfeeding peer counselor program for at least one year. The breastfeeding peer counselor program must meet all of the required core components of the **Loving Support Model** for a successful peer counseling program. The core components are available [online](#).

This is an annual award and an application can be submitted each year the awards are offered. Stay tuned for more information.

Share Our Strength Cooking Matters Recipes

Share Our Strength, who has *Shopping Matters*, now has another component titled *Cooking Matters*. The recipes are available on their website. The recipes often use WIC foods and give step-by-step instructions for preparation along with chef tips. Nutrition information is also available in the same format as you would see on boxes and containers of foods. [Check them out today](#).

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